

September

COMMUNITY

United Church of Christ

Semi-Annual Meeting Sept 11th

September 11th will be our Semi-Annual Meeting. The Vision Committee will be closing out their activities and making some recommendations, as well as reports from the commissions. There will be a luncheon hosted by our children and youth (Thank you Karen!) which should be a lot of fun! We have a couple of issues we'd like the congregation to weigh in on, so if you can't be there, watch for the updates and give someone your proxy! We need approximately 60 people for quorum.

Youth Group Hike & Dinner Sept 11th

The Youth Group will be meeting at 4 pm September 11th for a hike and there will be a dinner following at 6 pm. The agenda is eat and check in, planning for our heifer trip, music and games.

Welcome Back to Sunday School! Sept 11th

On that day, we will remember the lessons learned from New York's experience 10 years ago as we focus our intention on the importance of being in a community where members are our neighbors, friends & playmates as well as comforters & healers. We will end our lesson by making a community lunch that we will all share together before the semi-annual meeting scheduled for that day.

HOPE Lights the Night: Sept 13th 7pm

HOPE Lights the Night: Third Annual Candlelight Vigil to Remember Those Lost to Suicide will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7 pm at Community United Church of Christ, 2650 Table Mesa in Boulder. This event, sponsored by many community groups, is free and open to the public. The program includes music, readings, and a symbolic lighting of candles followed by refreshments. For more information, contact Susan Marine swdkm321@comcast.net or www.hopecoalitionboulder.org

Lectionary

Sept 4, 2011

Ordinary Time/Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149 or Psalm 148
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Sept 11, 2011

Ordinary Time/
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sept 18, 2011

Ordinary Time/
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Sept 25, 2011

Ordinary Time/Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32



I has been ten years since I started serving CUCC as the pastor. My first Sunday was August 19, 2001. Last Sunday, the church surprised me by celebrating my 10th anniversary with kind words and the gift of a beautiful Celtic design communion set. We will be using that new set for communion Sundays. I feel very fortunate to be the pastor of this church and grateful for how good a match it has been between pastor and congregation. Thank you! It has also been ten years since 9/11 and the destruction of the Twin Towers. I feel drawn to reflect a bit on the last ten years.

The media is full of reflections on the decade since 9/11. The Christian Century last week included four reactions to the anniversary from pastors and seminary professors. They focused on the outpouring of unity and compassion that took hold of the nation and the world immediately following 9/11, and the descent into fear and revenge that dominated much of the "official" national response as time went on. Vice President Dick Cheney gave voice to the suffering victim role by declaring a few days after the attack that the U.S. had to "work the dark side", using "any means at our disposal" to ensure it never happened again. Others, however, saw an opportunity to build bridges to the international community, who had themselves been victims of terror. There have been wonderful, hopeful demonstrations of love and unity as people reached out to the victims of the attacks, built cooperation with Muslim and Arab immigrants, welcomed the poor and the stranger and sought to bring from the attacks a renewed vision for non-violence and love of enemies. There have also been understandably fearful and violent reactions as we spent our

national wealth on war, engaged in ethnic profiling and the increasingly thought of the world as divided between "us" and "them". One article, by Robin Lovin of Southern Methodist University wondered if our current era of partisanship and polarization finds its roots in the opposing reactions to 9/11.

It is impossible



so soon after the attacks to truly understand or analyze the effect of 9/11, but it does strike me that we are still facing these two ways of reacting to the terrorist attacks. We can react by focusing our energies on security and fear, separating ourselves from other people and other nations and use violence and suspicion to protect ourselves, or we can open ourselves to others, befriend our enemies and seek unity and compassion. As a follower of Jesus I am challenged to remember that he measured love in terms of how we respond to those who seek to hurt us. Jesus did not to return hate for hate and violence for violence, but returned only love. Perhaps this choice between fear and trust is always with us, and 9/11 has just brought it clearly into focus.

In 9/11 we were brought face to face with evil. People have responded with sacrifice, engagement with the "other", forgiveness and heroism. We have also responded with fear, revenge, righteous anger and the use of military power. Both reactions have been

abundant. When we consider the overall legacy of 9/11, I hope the dominant result will be toward unity and love.

Pete

COMMUNITY *United Church of Christ*

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The Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 until business completes. These are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

Officers

Moderator

Erika Noll Webb

Narrator

Cathy Hazouri

Scribe

open

Treasurer

Kamilla Macar

Financial Secretary

Beth Cole

Commissions

Spiritual Life & Fellowship

Julie Leonard

Property

Tom Corrigan and Al Ramirez

Outreach

Lisa Radelet

Christian Education

Vicky Graham

Nominations

Lu Walters, Marion Grant

Webmaster

Janet Salmons, Cole Kiersey

I trust that you and your family have had a full, yet relaxing summer. In my family, the new school year is always met with mixed feelings, but so far the transition from sleeping late to getting up in time for the bus, has gone smoothly. I hope yours has as well. And while you are filling up your calendars with fall events and commitments, I hope that you will pencil in regular attendance in CUCC's Sunday School for your children and youth.

Together with the CE Commission, we have planned what we hope will be another wonderful year filled with traditional events like our annual Christmas Pageant, based this year on the story of Humphrey the Camel - rumor has it we may even have a real live visit from a "llama-camel", combined with some new ways to teach our younger children the old stories - like a "bible animal of the month," which will be highlighted by a field trip to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in April for all.

As I watch now as my oldest walks out the door for the first time alone - I can't help but hope that she and her class of CUCC friends remember the fun they had being a part of this church community - how they were loved, welcomed, comforted, supported and most importantly accepted simply for who they are by so many members and friends. It is also my hope that the younger children and youth who are attending now, look towards CUCC as a place to build friendships, to become aware and get involved in social action, and to begin the process of building spiritually strong hearts who are knowledgeable in the Christian stories and traditions, while respecting the traditions and stories of other cultures and faiths. This community is filled with so much love - for God, for the world and for each other; it is open and

accepting of differences in belief and lifestyles; it encourages individual questioning and searching for meaning and understanding; and finally, it places a high value on helping and serving others. What a wonderful place for a child to begin building their own spiritual path or a youth to question their most personal thoughts and feelings. We are so looking forward to seeing your family again on September 11th and at getting our 2011-12 church school year underway!

Many Blessings for a Wonderful School Year,

Karen

2011-12 Class Configurations and Curriculum

NURSERY CARE (Ages 0-2 1/2): The nursery has found a quiet home in the church office. It is filled with toys and books that are appropriate for the infant and early child age level. Our nursery is staffed by loving, caring adults from our church community.

"STORY SEEKERS" (Ages 2 1/2 to 5): Our preschoolers will continue to meet in the preschool room just to the left of the north side door. Parents can either drop off their preschooler at 10AM for free play or bring their child/ren to the beginning of the service with the older children, recessing after Children's Time. Meg Tazelaar and Toni Ramirez have replaced Ella in a shared position as our paid preschool care givers. Both Meg & Toni are very sweet, older teens who will prove to be competent teachers as they lead the children each week in a Bible Story lesson especially written for this age level. We will be using the "Jesus Story Book Bible" as well as "Helpful Hal's Treasury of Christian Virtues"

"DEEPER DIGGERS" (K-4th): Children in these two classes will begin in the service with their families, recessing after Children's Time. We will

then join together as a group in the center yellow classroom where we will have a short chapel service giving us a time to share together, to pray together, and to take up a collection. We will discuss the day's lesson and then the younger ages will exit to the back classroom with their teacher. We will continue the Bible Story based curriculum combined with lessons from "A Joyful Path", published by: The Center for Progressive Christianity.

"SPIRIT SEEKERS" (5th, 6th AND 7th): These younger youth will also begin each week in the service with their families, recessing after Children's Time to their classroom located in the CE Office where they will begin their day with a short chapel service. They will be using the curriculum, "Jesus & His Kingdom of Equals" which will introduce them to an interpretation of the historical Jesus based on contemporary research principally from the Jesus Seminar.

"FAITH DRILLERS" (8th & 9th): These older youth will meet two times a month throughout the entire church school year. They will be using the curriculum, "Way to Live, Christian Practices for Teens". The dates they will be meeting are: 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13, & 12/4. You can check out the curriculum on line at www.waytolive.org

CONFIRMATION (9th Graders): In addition to participating in their Sunday morning class, "Faith Drillers, these youth will begin their Confirmation Preparation Program beginning in January with Pastor Pete. They will meet two times a month on Friday afternoons from 4 to 5PM. The pre-set dates are: 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/24, 3/2, 3/16, 4/13, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11. Confirmation Sunday is set for May 13th.

Spiritual Life and Fellowship

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Prayers of Sympathy to

Connie Hirsch whose mother, Wilma Hirsch, died in August.

Tom and Kari Silva on the loss of a newly adopted baby, who went back to his birth mother. A Service of Farewell and Release of Jasper Thomas was held on August 27th, at the church.

Confined to Home

Ed Brown

Doug Kendall

Henrietta Potter, Frasier Meadows

Mary Bork, currently at Mesa Vista

Prayers of Healing and Support

Joyce Robertson for healing from eye surgery

For all family and friends who are experiencing illness/bad health, or other life-crisis

Prayers of Thanksgiving

For all those who share their musical gifts for worship services

For all those who teach the children and youth in Christian Education

For all who work behind the scenes to make the "wheels turn"

For the Terpenning family: Pete, Laura, Esther, and Becca, for 10 great years!

Congratulations to

Jackie Hibbard who passed her Ecclesiastical Council exam for Ordination in the UCC

Julia Hansford who is studying at the Univ. of Bologna in Bologna, Italy for the next semester

Johanne Albrighten who is studying and living in Austria for this year

Karen Howe who will be completing her studies with IIIF Seminary after a "sabbatical" of many years

Ongoing prayers for all those serving in the Armed Forces around

the world; for those in the Middle East who are fighting for freedom, justice and political reform; for those in Sudan and other African countries who are without food, water and shelter.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Leslie and Kate Hartten have moved to Longmont so that the Hartten-Johnson family will now live in one house! New address: 1819 Jewell Dr., Longmont, 80501

Deborah Hurley and family have moved to 1101 A Monroe Dr., Boulder 80303

Paul Griego is now working as a chaplain intern at a hospital in Colorado Springs. His new address is: 1463 S. York, Denver 80210 We wish him well!

(To correct errors or omissions contact the Pastoral Associate, Rev. Jean Scott, at 303-939-0661 (NEW NUMBER) or jeanbscott@yahoo.com. Thanks!)

Christian Education *cont. from p.3*

YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12): This group began their year in August with an extremely successful "lock in" that was attended by 11 youth. We are very thankful to Beth Cole & Sarah Dawn Haynes for their energy and commitment. Beth sent an email recently with upcoming events/dates. Email Beth directly at bbrcole@msn.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEEDS

YOU!: As always, a smooth running program takes the volunteer efforts of many. A smile from a young child or a cuddle from a baby is the reward - so if you enjoy sharing time teaching a pre-written lesson with children and youth, then please consider volunteering to teach in the classroom. And if teaching is not for you, you can volunteer one week to be a Nursery Care Giver or to be the Sunday Morning Runner. Please take your turn at helping in the success of or program.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH SAFE

In keeping with our Safe Church Policy, we are requiring all parents to complete and turn in the Child Safety and Photo Permission Form. Your child/youth will not be allowed to attend Sunday school unless a completed form is on file in the CE Office. Parents were sent a Safety Registration Form via email in August. Please take the time to complete the form and email it back or pickup one on Sunday mornings at the CE Information table.

WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY

- After a wonderful experience last May at the Humane Society, the children have chosen the Wild Animal Sanctuary as their social action project for this school year. We will be taking a collection in our chapel services each Sunday and will donate the money at the end of the year on our field trip to the Sanctuary.

FAMILY POTLUCKS ARE BACK

- Join us on Saturday evening, October 15th from 5:30 to 7PM, as we celebrate

the fall season with pumpkin carving, holiday games, and an especially scary dessert!!

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Welcome Back to Sunday School - 9/11
Communion Sundays - 9/4, 10/2, 11/6, 12/4

Interactive Children's Time - 9/25, 10/30, 11/27

8th & 9th Grades Meeting Dates - 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13, & 12/4

SPECIAL EVENTS

Intergenerational Service (K-9th in Service) - 10/2

Family Potluck - 10/15

Crop Walk - 10/23

"Souper Sunday" - 11/20

11/20 to 12/4 - Christmas Pageant Practices (to be held from 11:30 - 12:15 after Sunday School)

12/11 - Annual Christmas Pageant

Outreach

This year's **Alternative Gift Market** will be on **Sunday December 4th**. Our tables last year were SERRV, Heifer, Women's Bean Project, Beads for Life and UCC Coffee Project. It would be great to have a new organization represented. So mark your dates and plan to do your Christmas shopping on Sunday December 4th after church. This is a great option for co-workers, older relatives who don't want stuff or if you would like to make your holiday less commercial. If you are interested in helping organize the market, manning a table or have a new idea for us, talk to Laura Terpenning (lterpenningmd@comcast.net). There has been some interest raised in expanding and opening to the public. Tell Laura your thoughts on this!

26th Annual Boulder County CROP Hunger Walk

When: Sunday, **October 23, 2011** at 1:30pm Most walkers take 2 plus hours to complete the Walk.

Where: First United Methodist Church, 1421 Spruce St. Boulder

How: Pick up a Walker envelope on Sunday after church from recruiters, Janet Hoaglund and Meg Tazelaar. Collect the money up front and bring it to the Walk.

CROP Walk is a 10K sponsor walk with a short loop option and we walk no matter the

weather! You can also support a Walker by making a donation.

What: Bring a food donation to the Walk for Community Food Share. The CROP Walk was one of the first Walks in the U.S. When CROP began in 1947 the name was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program; its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. This is the 64th year of CROP events in the

U.S. When you walk in the CROP Walk, you will raise money to help fight hunger.

Millions of people around the world walk for water, for food, to get to school and to get to jobs --- We Walk Because They Walk.

- 75% of funds raised go to Church World Service or a hunger charity you designate
- 24% goes to our local Community Food Share
- 1% goes to Bread for the World for lobbying efforts for hunger issues

For the past few years we have been the top CROP Walk in the Rocky Mountain Region. Last year, Boulder CROPWalk raised \$53,995! Our Boulder County goal this year is to raise \$65,000. We offer attractive T-shirts for \$5 supported by local businesses. They are for sale to raise awareness about our upcoming walk. Please see Janet to purchase one and wear it often and wear it on Oct. 23rd. Come walk with us on October 23rd and make new friends, see new sights (this year we'll walk through historic Boulder), get exercise, and most of all raise funds to overcome hunger! www.bouldercropwalk.org You can register and collect donations online by signing up with our Community UCC Walkers team! Last year Community UCC walkers raised approx. \$4,153.50

Work Trip to Guatemala November 4-13, 2011

Go on a work trip to Guatemala sponsored by BCAT (Boulder County Action Team). The cost is \$1930 per person. We will be building fuel efficient wood burning stoves for families in their homes. The trip has been arranged through Transformational Journeys (www.tjourneys.org) If you are interested, more info is available from Linda Woods, Tom Cimino or Pete Terpenning.

Boulder Change New at the Gift Card Table

Here is a way to help folks on the street corners without giving them cash. Buy these \$1 vouchers and give them to homeless. They can use them for food, water, showers, bus rides, and other things around the area. They cannot be spent on alcohol or tobacco. You can buy just a few of them to try it out. Visit the gift card table in the lobby and get yours today!

CUCC members help serve a meal to the homeless through **Community Table** on the 4th Thursday of each month. Our turn for this month is Thursday, Sept 22nd, 4-6 pm at First United Methodist Church. If you'd like to help, please contact Lisa Radelet. All are welcome. No experience necessary!

Friday Mornings at CUCC

Men's Breakfast from 7-8:30am:

This is open to all men, and is a simple breakfast (coffee & bagels) with time for sharing and discussion. Low key and informal, the goal is to build fellowship and friendship among the men of our congregation. Guests and members are welcome as well! Contact Bill Marine with questions- 303-818-2776.

Centering Prayer/Meditation at

9:30am: Pete is leading a Friday morning Centering Prayer/Meditation group beginning at 9:30am. If you regularly meditate or practice Centering Prayer and would like to sit with a group once in awhile, or if you are hoping to learn to meditate, join us when you can. We sit for 20 minutes and then meet for 20 minutes or so to check in and discuss questions and issues of meditation. See Pete or Lu Walters with questions.

Semi-Annual Meeting Reports Sept 11, 2011

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Members: Marion Grant, Beki Sciacca, Nathalie Moyer, Seanna Zimmer, Jennifer Brown, Sarah Myers, Lu Walters, Heather Bowler
Vicky Graham, Chair

Although this is a mid-year report, fall is really the beginning of our year in Christian Ed and once again, we are looking forward to a lot of fun, learning, and spiritual growth with our children and youth. Since last September, we have been trying out a number of new approaches to community building among families, use of volunteers, and teaching opportunities, many of which have been very successful. Sunday school attendance has been consistently strong averaging 27 children per week. Thanks to the many volunteers who serve as teachers, runners, and nursery caregivers, we are able to meet the needs of our growing community of young people.

Under the direction of Beth Cole & Sarah Dawn Haynes, our Youth Group is really taking off. They recently welcomed our incoming Freshmen with a lock-in at the church - 11 youth total were in attendance and have planned a work trip next summer to the Heifer Ranch. They will be doing fundraising projects throughout the year to finance the trip.

Family potlucks have been a huge hit and offer opportunities each quarter to build community around themed events. In November we decorated our own teepee, in March we held a Mardi Gras bash, and in May we welcomed in Spring with a beautiful May Pole.

At the end of our Sunday school year last May, the younger classes collected food, treats, and toys to donate to the Humane Society of Boulder Valley. These were presented at a special field trip to the facility in late May.

Looking ahead, family potlucks will resume with a Fall-themed event in October and, of course, the much anticipated Christmas pageant will be presented in early December. The children chose the Wild Animal Sanctuary for their social project this year. Their weekly collections will be

gifted to the Sanctuary on a field trip planned there in late April.

We have reconfigured our classes based on numbers at each grade level and this year's curricula have been set. In addition, we have a large confirmation class this year with thirteen 9th graders who will start their Confirmation Journey in January with Pete. They are also adding new energy and faces to our Youth Group.

So many thanks to Karen Kent-Pyle whose warmth, energy, and creativity keep our CE program thriving and to the members of the CE commission for their ideas and direction. Of course, we couldn't make any of this happen without the volunteers who generously give their time and enthusiasm each week.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

This year, we have 84 pledges for a total dollar amount of \$164,243. Twenty-two (22) of the pledges are increased from 2010 for an increased dollar amount of \$8,898. Eight (8) pledges went down for a dollar amount of \$2,930. Thirty-four (34) pledges remained the same as in 2010. We have 20 new pledges in 2011 for a total dollar amount of \$25,190. The breakdown of the pledges is as follows:

0 - \$100 - 1 pledges for a total dollar amount of \$50

\$100 - \$500 - 10 pledges for a total dollar amount of \$3400

\$500 - \$1000 - 20 pledges for a total dollar amount of \$13,440

\$1000 - \$3000 - 35 pledges for a total dollar amount of \$59,420

\$3000 - \$5000 - 14 pledges for a total dollar amount of \$55,333

Over \$5000 - 4 pledges for a total dollar amount of \$32,600

At the end of the 2nd quarter, 13 pledges were paid in full, 5 pledges had nothing paid on them, 18 pledges were over the expected amount, 26 pledges were under the expected amount and 22 pledges were at the expected amount. Two pledges have been decreased due to financial situations.

By the end of July, we have received \$8,769 in donations that aren't tied to a pledge, accounting for 54 individuals/couples. Many of these donations were one-time, but a few of the donations are from people who are giving on a regular basis, but have not pledged. After the 2nd quarter reports went out, several of the pledges that were under the expected were caught up to where we would expect them to be.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Cole, Financial Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

The full treasurer's report is available by email upon request to office@cuccboulder.org and print copies will be available in the Fellowship Hall prior to the Semi-Annual Meeting.

SPIRITUAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

CUCC has had a busy year so far in 2011, and a lot of the activities fall under the umbrella of the Spiritual Life and Fellowship Commission (SLF). Our worship services particularly depend on SLF, from helping schedule services and special segments to be included in services, to having supplies on hand, to the Fellowship Circles taking turns with the jobs that enable the services to take place.

Besides these ongoing worship support activities, SLF reorganized the supply cupboard and got the hymnals onto rolling carts to make Sunday mornings a little easier. Thirty-eight new hymnals are ready to roll out as soon as the dedications are inscribed. Another way we're responding to the growth in membership is adding to the number of Sunday bulletins printed each week.

Many efforts are also underway to help incorporate new members, such as placing information about the email announcements and the Fellowship Circles in the Sunday bulletin so visitors can read about them. New members were recently added to the Fellowship Circles, and a Committee Fair is scheduled for Oct. 9 to help everyone find out how to get involved at CUCC. SLF members participated in the big task of building a new CUCC website, and more efforts to improve the information

flow are in the works, benefitting not just new members, but all of us.

Groups that are allied with SLF:

- Adult Ed has had high participation in classes such as the one on Pluralism.
- The library committee is well-established and held an event to honor authors at CUCC.
- The Men's Group reports good attendance and interesting conversation.
- Women's Group is in a regrouping phase.
- The Fellowship Circles are in a time of transition to new leadership, with new members recently added to the circles. They're also finding that the youth and children of the church are really stepping up and taking part in the work of the Circles.
- The labyrinth committee worked with Pete to plan a service opening the labyrinth for the spring.
- A Centering Prayer group has been established on Friday mornings.
- Music: The choir sang through the Easter season and once a month during the summer. Kamilla has already purchased the Christmas anthems.

CARING MINISTRY

Chair: Jean Scott

Members: Anne Carson, Frank Ciskovsky, Beth Cole, Linda Freund, Marion Grant, Deborah Hayes, Jackie Massey, and new member Eileen Moore. Jo Eleanor Elliot's death was a sad loss for the committee.

The committee meets the third Thursday of every month and considers needs brought to our attention by the pastors and others. We respond to needs of persons as the situations arise; sometimes with phone calls, with cards, and visits. We have provided meals when needed, taken folks to doctor appointments, helped with packing for a move, given rides to church, and support during crisis times. In conjunction with the Prayer Ministry we hold people in prayer for comfort and healing and encouragement. Since January we have sponsored three Baby Welcomings after the birth of babies in the congregation to celebrate them and their parents. We are unofficially the committee which provides refreshments after a funeral at the church and recruit others to help. We

also bought a baby bed for a member in need. This month we have sent a note of support and encouragement to all who are new freshmen in college, and will send Care Packages in October. We write Prayers For The Community for each month's Echo.

In October we are holding the second annual Sages Luncheon to honor those in our congregation who are age 80 and older. We expect there to be about 15 attendees this year. Since last year's luncheon, three women who were in attendance have died, Betty Gardner, Jan Heusman, and Jo Eleanor Elliot. We feel it a privilege to extend the ministry of caring to this congregation and recognize there are others who do many acts of caring on their own, and are grateful this is a core value of our community.

Rev. Jean Scott, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Care

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Members: Kathy Leftwich (outgoing chair), Lisa Radelet (current chair); Tim Brown, Alex Cherubin, Tom Corrigan, Jackie Hibbard, Janet Hoagland, Julie Kies, Susan Marine, Sarah Myers, Will Pinkow, Jai Stockton, Marie Sutherland, Laura Terpenning, Pete Terpenning, Liz Tilton.

The Outreach Commission coordinates our church's involvement and giving to those in need, both in our local community and around the world.

So far this year, Outreach has facilitated/participated in the following activities:

Human Needs: Coordinated by Lisa Radelet, CUCC members prepared and served a hot meal each month to clients of Community Table. Kathy Leftwich oversaw the collection of non-perishable grocery items throughout the year, which were donated to several local food pantries. Jackie Hibbard and Jai Stockton led CUCC volunteers in building houses through Habitat for Humanity. This is the third year of CUCC's three-year commitment to Habitat's Apostle Build.

Mental Health: The Interfaith Network for Mental Illness held a symposium in May. CUCC hosted one session and provided refreshments. CUCC is also co-sponsoring "Hope Lights the Night" on Sept. 13, a vigil to remember those who

lost their lives to suicide (both events coordinated by Susan Marine).

LGBT: Marie Sutherland served as CUCC's representative to the Interfaith AIDS Coalition, and Will Pinkow served on the board of PRISM (the Progressive and Really Inclusive Student Ministry), an open and affirming student ministry on the CU campus. Will and Pete attended PRISM's annual dinner. In August, Will Pinkow and Lisa Radelet attended the Boulder PrideFest and distributed flyers about CUCC as an Open and Affirming congregation.

Education: This summer, commission members Sarah Myers and Laura Terpenning coordinated the annual Stuff-Raiser, an event which allows the congregation to assist a local nonprofit by donating the "stuff" they need. This year's Stuff-Raiser recipient was PASO, Providers Advancing School Outcomes, which works to close Boulder County's achievement gap and ensure school readiness of the county's Latino children.

Coming up this Fall/Winter: October is the month we collect canned food for BCAP (Boulder County AIDS Project). Also in October is the CROP Walk, coming up on Oct. 23. This year's Alternative Gift Market is scheduled for Dec. 4. The holidays will also bring the opportunity to participate in two holiday giving programs: Family-to-Family and Share-a-Gift. Watch for details on all of these upcoming events!
~ Submitted by Lisa Radelet

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The CUCC Finance Committee is a group of Church members and friends who meet on an as-needed basis. The Committee examines financial issues of concern to the Church and makes suggestions and recommendations to Council. Created several years ago by Council, it serves at the pleasure of that body.

Current members include Beth Cole, Kathy Hazouri, Carl Love, Kamilla Macar, Bill Marine, Susan Marine, Erin Moran, Clovis Morrisson, Todd Ruskell, Pete Terpenning, John Tilton, and Erika Webb

After a number of months of inactivity, the Finance Committee has recently

begun meeting again and is considering the following issues:

The need to ensure that the Church's constitution, articles of incorporation, annual reports, deeds, federal income tax returns, and other important documents are readily available. This might require that these documents be scanned and deposited with several individuals in various locations.

The adequacy of current procedures for handling and reporting Church funds.

The need for a more established policy for handling large gifts and donations, including the advantages and disadvantages of creating a separate Church foundation.

The possibility of creating the means for members and others to make contributions to the Church on line.

Thoughts regarding the above issues and suggestions for other topics are welcome. They can be brought to the Committee's attention by contacting any of its members.

John E. Tilton, Chair

SUMMARY OF CUCC VISION COMMITTEE: IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS

The Vision Committee has been meeting for the past year. The idea behind forming it was to have a group representing a spectrum of the congregation to begin to learn about church growth, and transitions in size before we become much larger. This group was outside the Council to have freedom from the day-to-day concerns of the church to enable us to spend our time learning, reflecting, and brainstorming. We believe that our work has reached a logical end and that it is timely to share our ideas and suggestions with CUCC Council and then to dissolve. There will undoubtedly be another phase in CUCC's planning and making changes to manage our current size and to be intentional in decisions about future growth and size. It is the committee's opinion that another group with close ties to and frequent communication with the Council should take over the process.

As we have shared before, one of our first discoveries was that for CUCC the future is now. We thought we would be anticipating our filling our space but in

reviewing our numbers we found we have already reached a classic situation in which we are filling our sanctuary more than 80% most of the time (summer and Easter and Christmas being exceptions); that our average Sunday attendance, including adults and children, has essentially reached a plateau since 2006 (122 in 2006 and 118 in 2009); and our membership continues to grow (154 in 2006 and 170 in 2009). Membership is currently 186; and, in addition, many devoted attenders elect not to join.

We have involved the congregation in becoming aware of the situation and in beginning conversation by sponsoring three activities:

The written request for preference between pursuing discussions about growth or about staying the same size and an invitation for comments

The facilitation of eight small group conversations about growth and ways to manage it

The sponsoring of a Sunday panel discussion by four people very active in the process and planning for the building campaign 11 years ago

What we found in the activities

The request for preference responses showed no strong preference for either alternative. The numbers were close to equal between those who preferred exploring growth and the sum of those who preferred to stay the current size, those who had no opinion, and those who chose both. Interestingly and importantly, most of the written comments from all preferences were very similar: to paraphrase, 'we like the size we are but do not feel right about excluding those who would be attracted to our church'.

The panel discussion shared the long and careful process the church went through which led to the decision to expand the building, the capital campaign which led to the construction of our current building and our current mortgage. The process took several years and ended with a unanimous vote for the construction. It was vigorously led by the clergy and the lay leadership.

The small groups were facilitated by a member of the Vision Committee. Three questions were used for the framework of an open discussion:

How do you feel about the current fullness of our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall; how does it affect you?

What ideas do you have about managing our growth and size?

What is your single greatest wish for CUCC over the next 3 years?

56 people participated in one of the group conversations, either in a Fellowship Circle or one of the three additional groups we invited people to attend. We have summarized our ideas about the main themes in these conversations, but we are also attaching the complete notes from those conversations. We strongly encourage you to read these complete notes, since there are many thoughtful and creative ideas in addition to the summary below. We think these conversations were also very important because the people who participated have become engaged in thinking about the challenges and in being in discussion with each other about them.

Below are our ideas about the themes which emerged in these meetings:

- The issue of size and growth is here and we need to be intentional in addressing it
- A small number were interested in a significant building expansion but most were not
- There was no desire to make growth and becoming a large church a goal of the congregation
- Many people expressed their attraction to a small church with relationships possible with all, and at the same time they do not feel right turning people away. We fill a unique niche in the Boulder church community of liberal theology, being open and affirming, and supporting everyone's unique spiritual journey in community. The sum of these bring an inherent tension in what people value at CUCC
- There was a lot of interest in a variety of ways to try some new things, to be creative and experimental with our space and our programs
- Many like the fullness of the church and the vibrancy which comes with it
- There was a split in opinions expressed about trying a second major service with few people

being in the middle: people either really liked the idea as a creative alternative to dealing with our size and growth or did not, usually expressing the concern that it would split the church and make it difficult to know everyone

- Many people expressed concern over finding the proper support for Pete and other staff so they can deal with our size and possible future growth without burnout, allowing them to do what they do best and delegate other functions which may drain their time and energy
- A lot of people expressed a sense of loss over not being able to know everyone in the congregation both now and with future growth
- Many people felt we should pay off our current mortgage before we consider any building project. There were suggestions that we find a way to invite people to contribute directly to paying down the mortgage either through a separate capital campaign or designation of their donations
- Several people mentioned the concern that if we should build parking would be a major problem and we already need more handicapped spaces
- There was a lot of consensus about the important values of the congregation: a warm, welcoming, vibrant community in which relationships with many or all were possible; an open and affirming community; a community which supports and encourages each individual in the uniqueness of their spiritual journey; strong outreach programs; and a friendly and supportive community for our children. There was a strong consensus that whatever we try we do not want to dilute these values.

Vision Committee Suggestions for Next Steps

We think that many in the congregation are now becoming aware of the challenges ahead about size and growth and are actively engaged in wanting to be experimental and creative with both our physical space to make it more comfortable for our current size without a building project and our programming in the broad sense: how we communicate, integrate, and provide for the needs of our now larger community. Over the next year to year

and a half, we suggest that the Council create a new group to plan, oversee, and carry out some creative changes which can be done on a trial basis and reviewed. These changes may be within the area of responsibility of a Commission and carried out by that group or may be done separately from any Commission. We generated some possible names for this new group: The Action Team; The Vision Team;?. It is very important that it include members of Council, probably have co-chairs, and be in frequent communication with the congregation as a whole and with the Council. It is our hope that it would explore options, decide on some to try, create a process of review and assessment, and encourage the Commissions to be involved in the process. We consider the goal to be “tweaking” our current space and programs, not creating dramatic change. A few of the member of the Vision Committee would be willing to be part of the new group, if the Council decides to form it.

We have some ideas generated by our discussions and the small group ideas which might be considered in this “tweaking” process; they are listed below. We are sure that more can easily be generated. Possible changes to try:

Physical space

- Move or remove the organ
- Buy additional chairs
- After the service, move chairs in the sanctuary to accommodate overflow from fellowship hour
- Consider new ways of including our children which might free up some chairs for adults, eg. having the children sit in the front on the floor or having them in the service only for special all ages services or communion

Program

Integrate new people better by:

- Assign new members a sponsor
- Put a bio of new members in the bulletin and/or ECHO when they join
- Provide more opportunities for more in depth discussions, such as: meetings with Pete after service to discuss the sermon, more topical or discussion groups which allow for deeper and more connected conversations and relationships

- Plan and carry out an experimental additional service, perhaps starting in January. One possibility would be an expanded, Taize inspired early service. Initially it would be for a set period, such as three months, to be carefully reviewed at the end of that time. A decision could then be made about whether to continue it or not

In terms of the longer term issues and decisions facing CUCC, our committee is very concerned that CUCC be intentional in our reflection, consideration, and decisions. Below is a possible timetable and focus for the next three and a half years which would provide a framework for both a visioning process and community decisions for the future. It could be led and overseen by the same new committee or another one formed for these next phases.

2011/2012 -- TWEAKING YEAR, initiating new projects. Possibilities are experimenting with two Sunday Services, sermon feedback sessions with Pete after church, sell organ and reorganize organ space, buy new chairs, follow-up programs with new members, etc.

2012/2013 -- STUDY YEAR, initiating workshops with outside speakers and conversations about experimental 21st century churches such as All Saints and Sinners Lutheran Church in Denver to discover what we can learn from them, and/or engage Alban Institute or another outside consultant to lead us in a strategic planning process to create a vision for the coming years, including vision about growth, size, and ministries.

2013/2014 - ACTION YEAR, sponsoring 50th Anniversary events (we are 50 years old in 2014), inviting persons active in our church over the past decades, celebrating who we have been and are today, conducting a modest financial campaign to underwrite projects such as a year long mission project and paying off our current building debt, and implementing our church's vision for our future.

THE VISION COMMITTEE
Erv Bode, Shane Brown, Vicky Graham,
Judi Kleinman, Kamilla Macar, Bill
Marine, Jean Scott, Pete Terpenning

*Semi-Annual Meeting Reports
continued on p10*

COMMUNITY

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Announcements for bulletins and weekly emails should be sent to office@cuccboulder.org. The deadline for the bulletin is 8 a.m. on Wednesday. The deadline for the beginning of the week e-mail announcements is 9 am on Monday. The deadline for the weekend e-mail announcements is 9 am on Friday. Early submissions are very much appreciated.

The deadline for the next edition of The Echo is the third Friday of every month. Early submissions are appreciated, late submissions make our lives more complicated – please simplify and remember the deadline!

The Caring Ministry Committee will be hosting the 2nd Annual Sages Luncheon for those in the church who are 80 years old and over. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 29th. Invitations are coming! Jean Scott has a (hopefully) complete list, but if you are over 80 and want her to know please contact her: 303-939-0661 or jeanbscott@yahoo.com

Semi-Annual Meeting Reports continued from p9

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Prepared by Erin Moran

At the semi-annual meeting in January 2011 it was mentioned that a personnel committee was needed to address a variety of personnel matters at church including job descriptions and a personnel handbook. Erin Moran, Beth Willman and Cathy Hazouri volunteered to serve on the committee. Since January, the following activities/items have been completed by the committee and presented to the Coordinating Council:

1. Job descriptions for all positions
2. Personnel Handbook, including responsibilities of the Personnel Committee
3. Employee Review Form
4. Reimbursement form
5. Process for Recruiting and Hiring Personnel has been documented
6. Offer Letter

All employees and personnel paid by the church will receive reviews this fall and on an annual basis going forward.